

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 01824 220933Z

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SWF-01 IGA-01 RSC-01 /018 W

----- 071417

R 220840Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC 6730

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MA, US

SUBJECT: MALAGASY REQUEST FOR PL-480 ASSISTANCE

STADIS//////////

REFS: A. STATE 256248; B. TANANARIVE 1792; C. TANANARIVE 1739;

D. STATE 243838.

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFS B, C, AND D, EMBASSY NOV 20 INFORMED MALAGASY GOVT BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE AND SIMULTANEOUS CALLS ON SECGENS MIN RURAL DEV AND MOFA OF US INABILITY TO SUPPLY ANY PORTION OF PL-480 RICE AND WHEAT FLOUR REQUESTED BY GOMR IN FY-75.

2. SINCE REPPAS CASE APPROACH FOLLOW-UP AND MOST NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS WERE COMPLETED BY NOV 15, EMBASSY CONSIDERED THERE WAS NO LONGER CAUSE TO FURTHER DELAY REPLY TO GOMR'S OCTOBER REQUEST FOR PL-480 ASSISTANCE. MOREOVER, SECGEN RURAL DEV TELEPHONED EMBASSY NOV 18 AND ASKED FOR REPLY TO PL-480 REQUEST SOONEST POSSIBLE, AS HE SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR HIM IMMEDIATELY TO BEGIN PROGRAMMING OF SUBSTANTIAL RICE IMPORTS MADAGASCAR WILL REQUIRE DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1975. EMBASSY THEREFORE PROCEEDED TO NOTIFY GOMR OF OUR INABILITY TO MEET ANY PORTION ITS PL-480 REQUEST, IN ACCORDANCE REFS B AND D, LATE AFTERNOON NOV 20. REF A RECEIVED HERE AFTER RPT AFTER NOTE DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CALLS PAID ON SECGENS.

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3. SECGEN MIN RURAL DEV, WHEN INFORMED OF SUBSTANCE REF D, APPEARED DEEPLY DISTRESSED. HE SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND U.S. MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MEET FULL MALAGASY REQUEST FOR 72,000 TONS OF RICE AND 35,000 TONS OF WHEAT FLOUR, BUT HE GREATLY SURPRISED WE UNABLE ASSIST AT ALL IN MEETING EVEN PART OF MADAGASCAR'S ESSENTIAL FOOD IMPORT NEEDS IN THE COMING YEAR. HE AGAIN STRESSED GOMR'S URGENT NEED FOR VERY SUBSTANTIAL RICE IMPORTS IN FIRST MONTHS OF 1975, AND SEEMED AT LOSS TO KNOW HOW MADAGASCAR WOULD PAY FOR ALL ITS REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT PL-480 ASSISTANCE. IN CONCLUSION, HE ASKED EMBOFF TO CONVEY TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF USG IN WASHINGTON GOMR'S DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT AT U.S. INABILITY TO SUPPLY ANY PORTION OF REQUESTED PL-480 COMMODITIES, AND ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY "APPEAL FROM DECISION." EMBOFF SAID WE WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS CONCERN AND INQUIRE ABOUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF "APPEAL."

4. FOLLOWING RECEIPT NOV 6 STATE 243838 STATING "AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WE REGRET WE WILL BE UNABLE TO CONSIDER ANY PORTION OF MALAGASY REQUEST IN FY-75," AND FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS WITH DEPT ON TIMING OF WHEN WE WOULD INFORM MALAGASY THEIR REQUEST REJECTED (REF C AND STATE 249144), EMBASSY IS PUZZLED BY NEWS IN REF A THAT DEPT IS STILL CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF PL-480 RICE PROGRAM. NEWS IS NONETHELESS WELCOME. IN VIEW OF: (A) MADAGASCAR'S STATUS AS ONE OF UN'S "LEAST DEVELOPED" AND "MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED" COUNTRIES; (B) EVIDENT NEED FOR CONTINUED SUBSTANTIAL RICE IMPORTS NEXT YEAR; AND (C) ACCELERATING DECLINE IN MALAGASY FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, EMBASSY BELIEVES FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF AT LEAST SOME PART OF MALAGASY REQUEST FOR PL-480 RICE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WOULD APPEAR EMINENTLY JUSTIFIED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED BY DEPT: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER EMBASSY MAY NOW INFORM GOMR, FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, THAT U.S. MAY POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO MEET SOME LIMITED PORTION OF MALAGASY REQUEST FOR PL-480 RICE LATER THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH AS YET WE CAN MAKE NO COMMITMENTS.
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ELFERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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